IDW

56

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

STANLEY · GRAHAM

SEGA®

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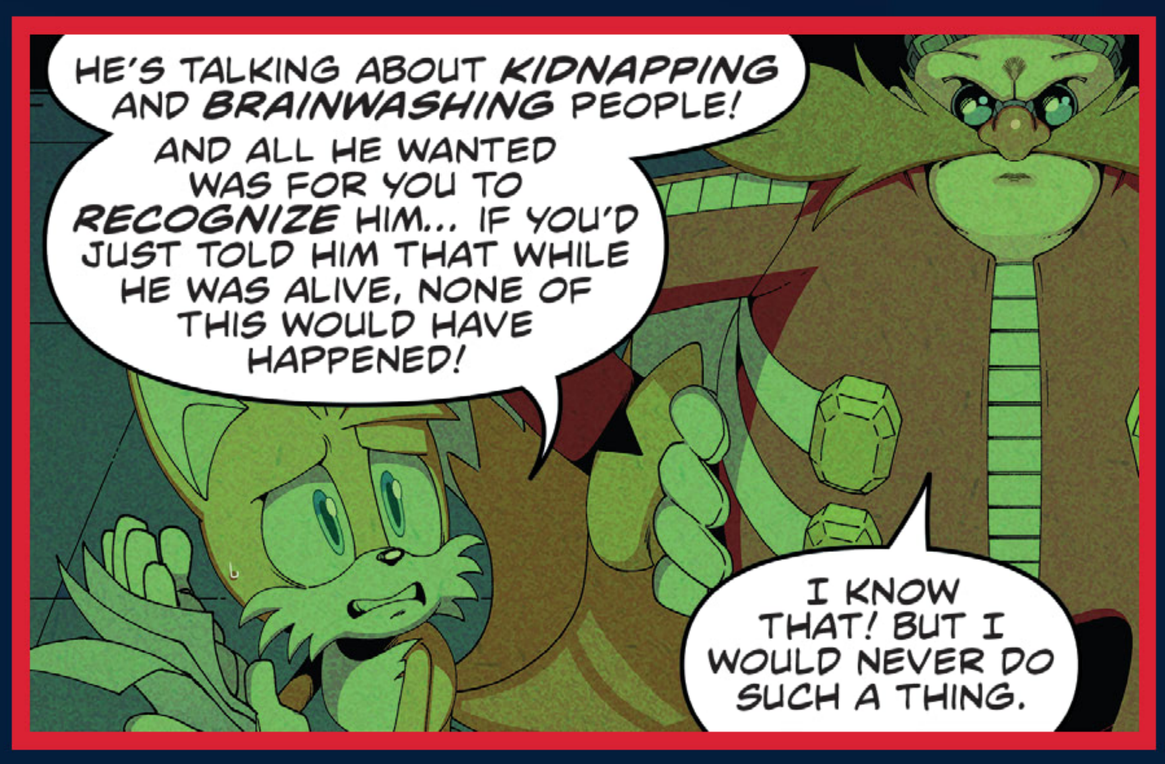
STORY SO FAR

IT'S THEIR FAULT THAT WE'RE HERE, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY FOR IT.

ALL RIGHT, EGGMAN!
WE'LL HELP YOU HANDLE SURGE, AND YOU AND METAL WON'T START ANYTHING TILL WE'RE ALL OUT OF THIS DUMP. DEAL?

...SO HE COULD MAKE THEM.
MAKE US... BUT FOLLOWING HIS DESIGN.

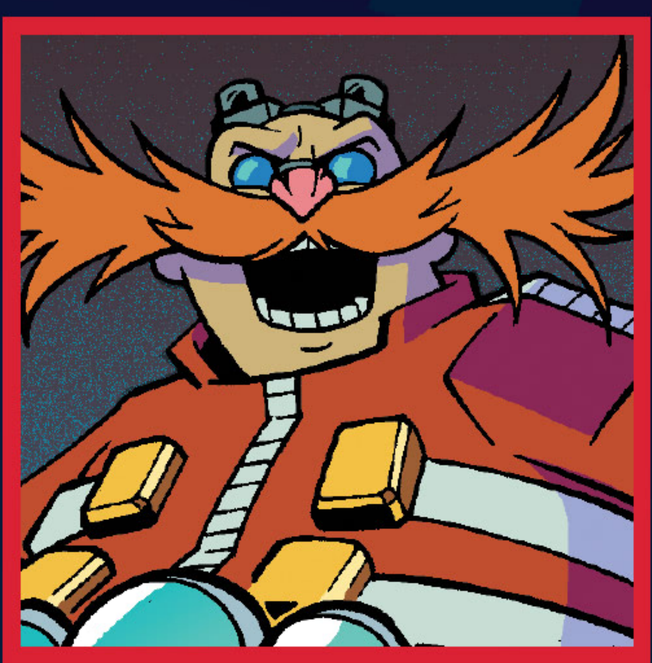

HE'S TALKING ABOUT KIDNAPPING AND BRAINWASHING PEOPLE!
AND ALL HE WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO RECOGNIZE HIM... IF YOU'D JUST TOLD HIM THAT WHILE HE WAS ALIVE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
I KNOW THAT! BUT I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.

LISTEN, I DON'T WANNA FIGHT YOU GUYS. HAND OVER THE DOOHICKEY, AND WE CAN ALL WALK AWAY.

TOO BAD IT'S NOT UP TO YOU, THEN.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-Savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.



DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Egg enthusiast.

METAL SONIC
Loyal Minion.
Mechanical menace.

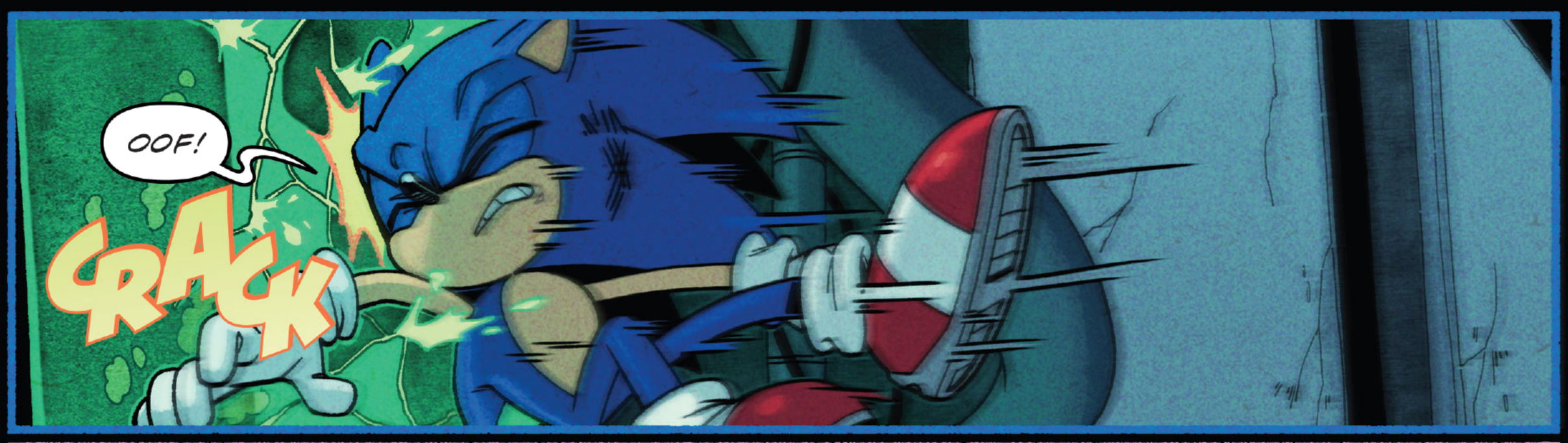
SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

KITSUNAMI "KIT" THE FENNEC
Sorrowful Sidekick.
High-flying hyrdromancer.

NO!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT I WON'T LET YOU HURT SONIC.
...
WAIT! TALK TO ME, PLEASE!

YOU CALL THIS A FAIR FIGHT?
IF IT STOPS ME FROM GETTING BUZZSAWED, I'M NOT LOSING ANY SLEEP OVER IT.
KEEP THE PRESSURE ON, METAL! WE'LL WEAR HER DOWN!
WHIFF
SURPRISE!
NO, THANKS!
EGAD!

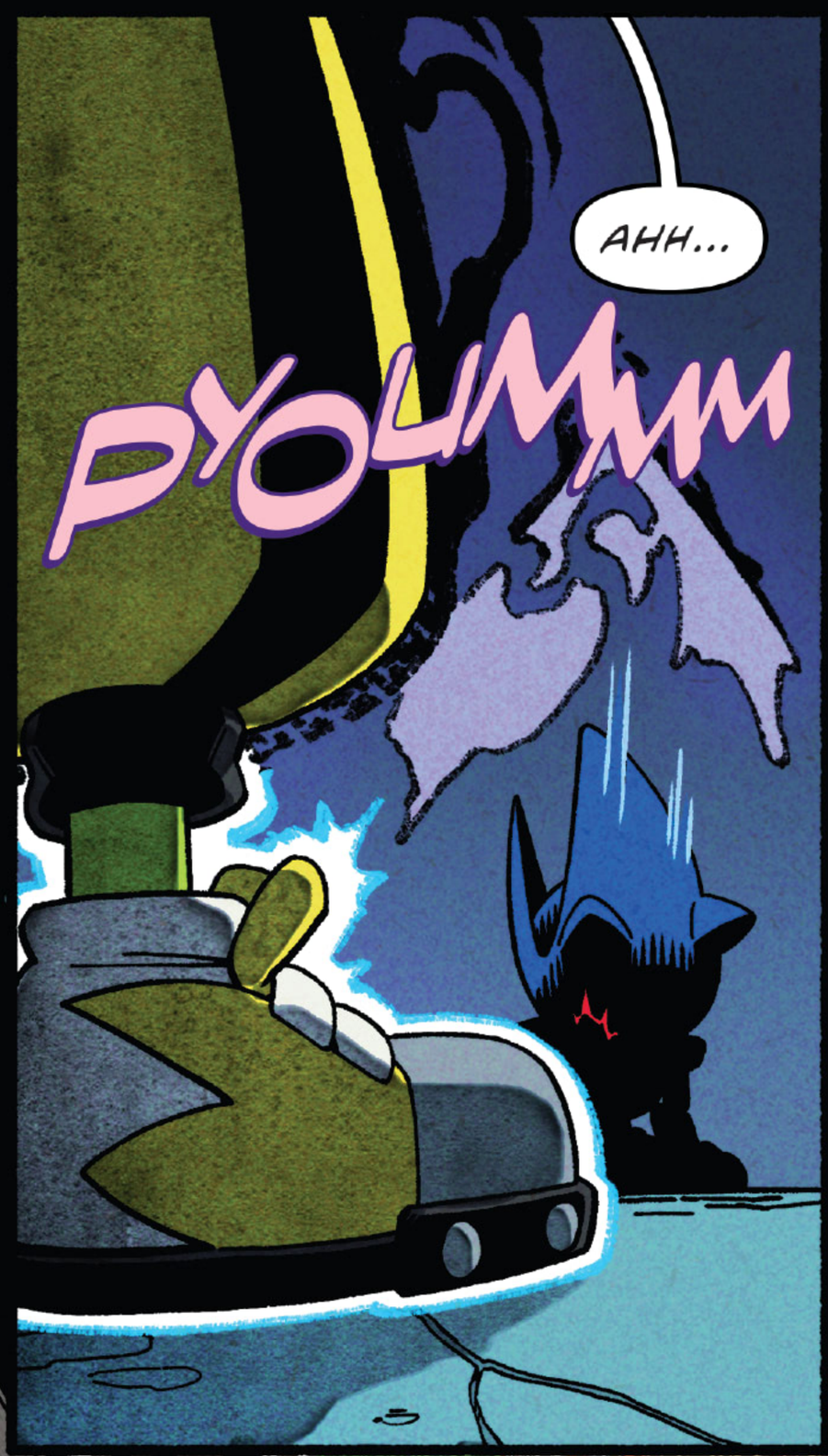
HEH.
PSYCH!
KA-KANG
GRAB
WHAK

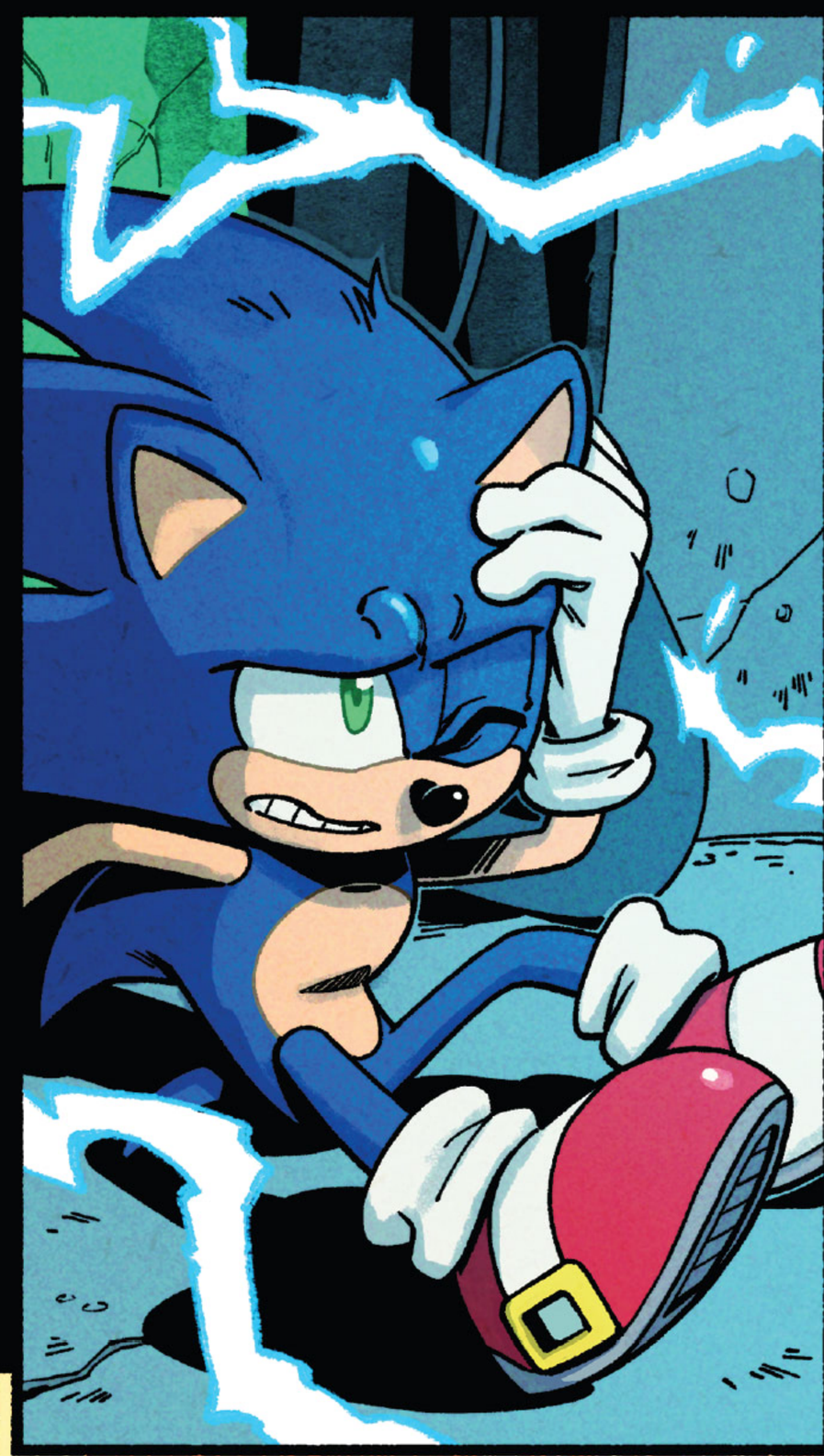

OOF!
CRACK

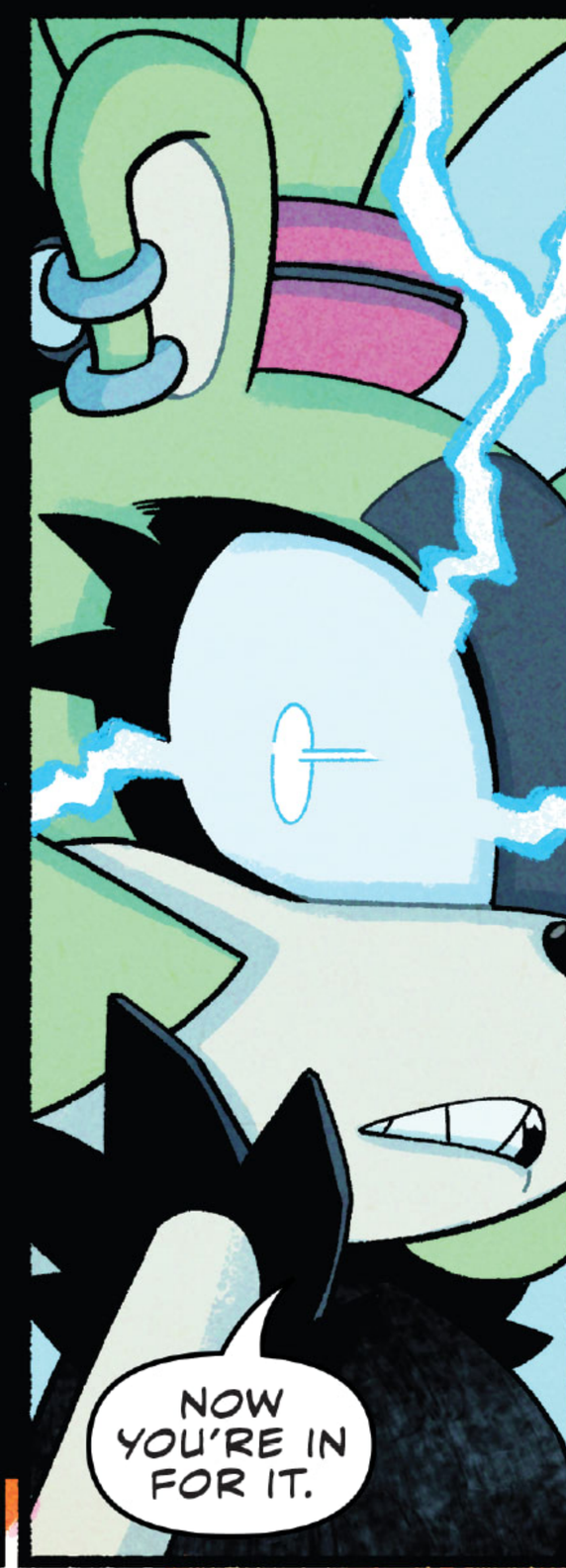
THOOM

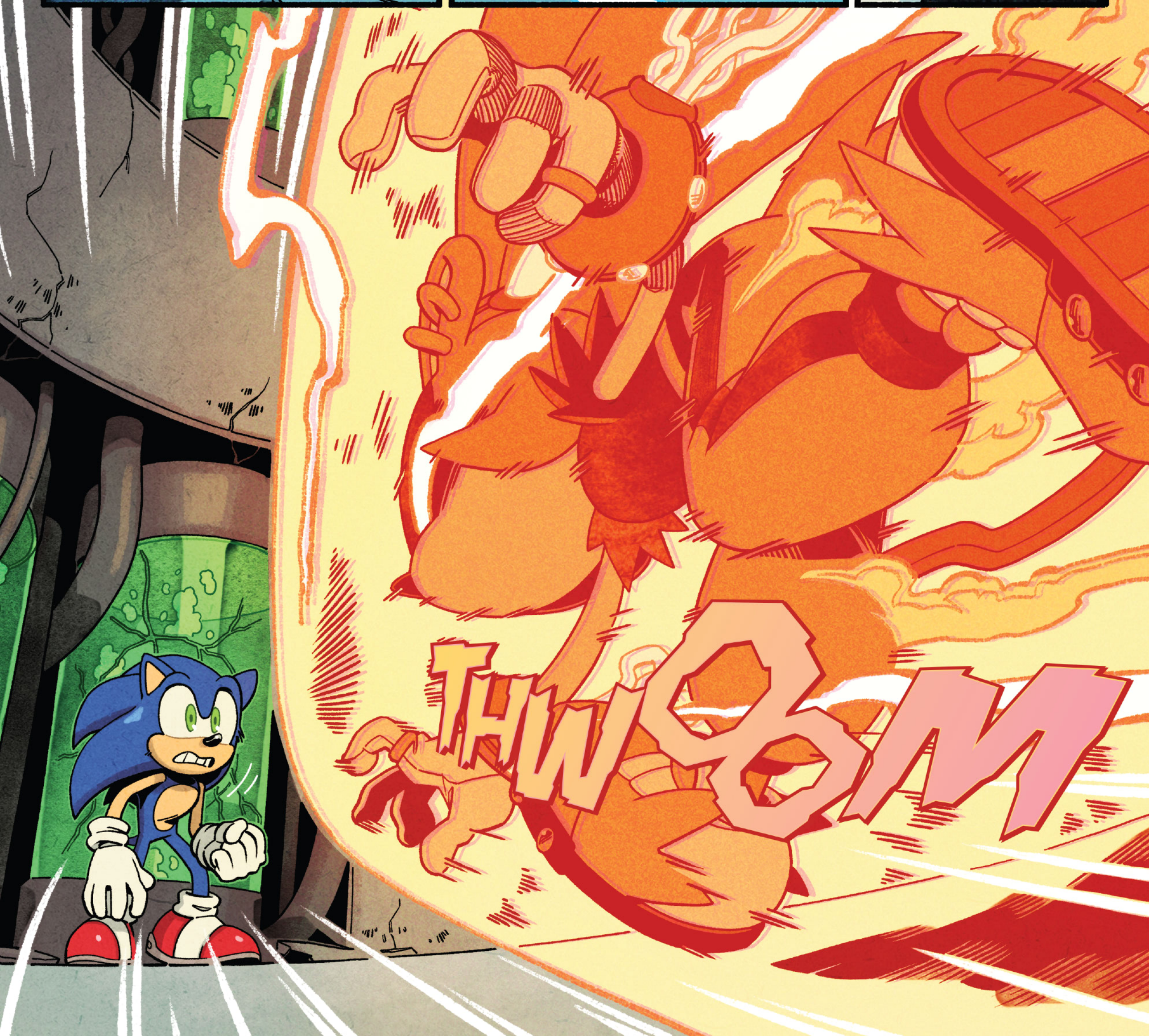
SHVORN
GYAH!

WHAT IN THE?!
HA! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR UNDERESTIMATING THE POWER OF MY BRILLIANT CREATIONS!
OH, I DON'T...
...I'VE GOT THE BEST ONE YET!


AHH...
PYOLUMM



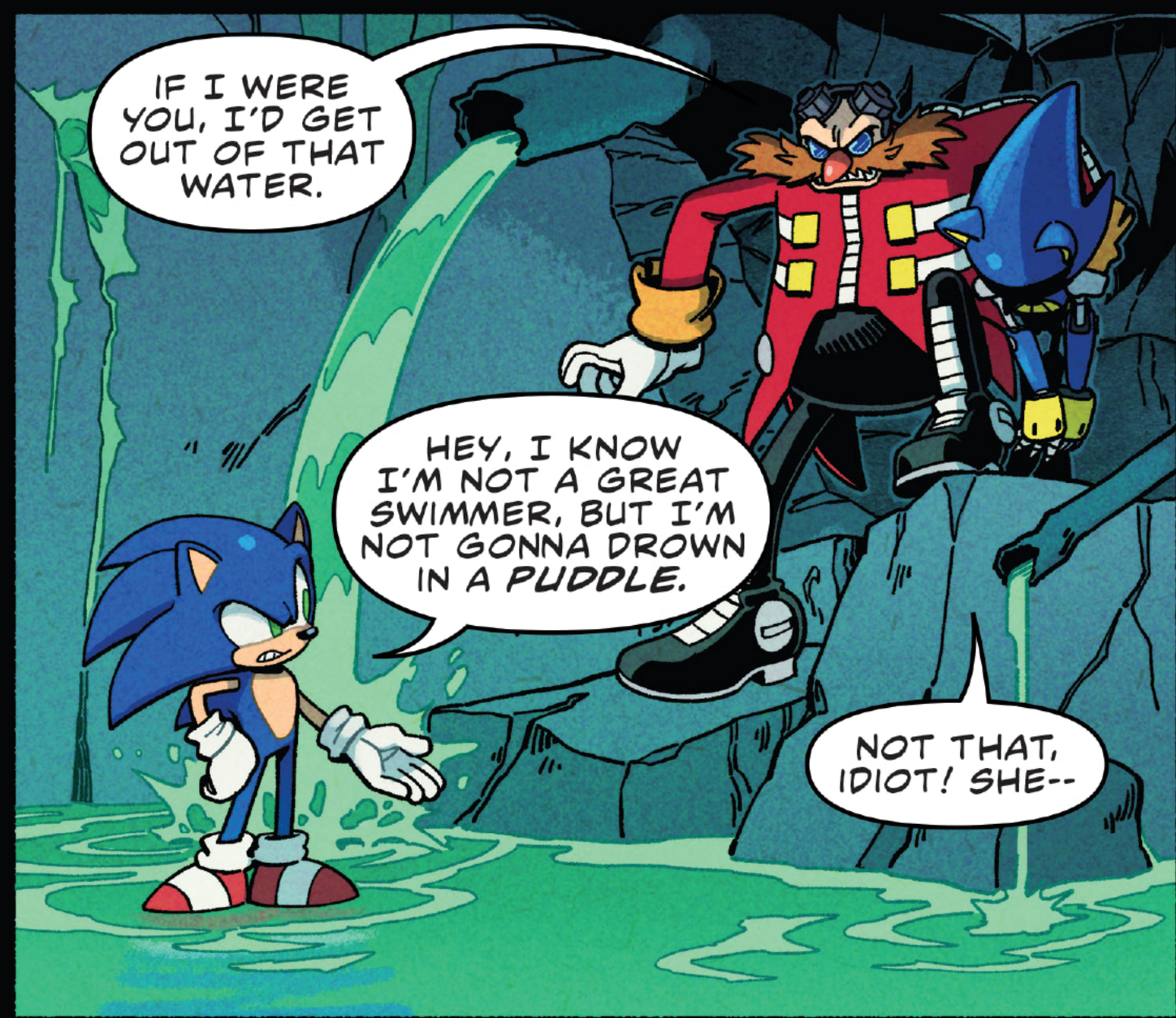

NOW YOU'RE IN FOR IT.


THWOMM

BOOM

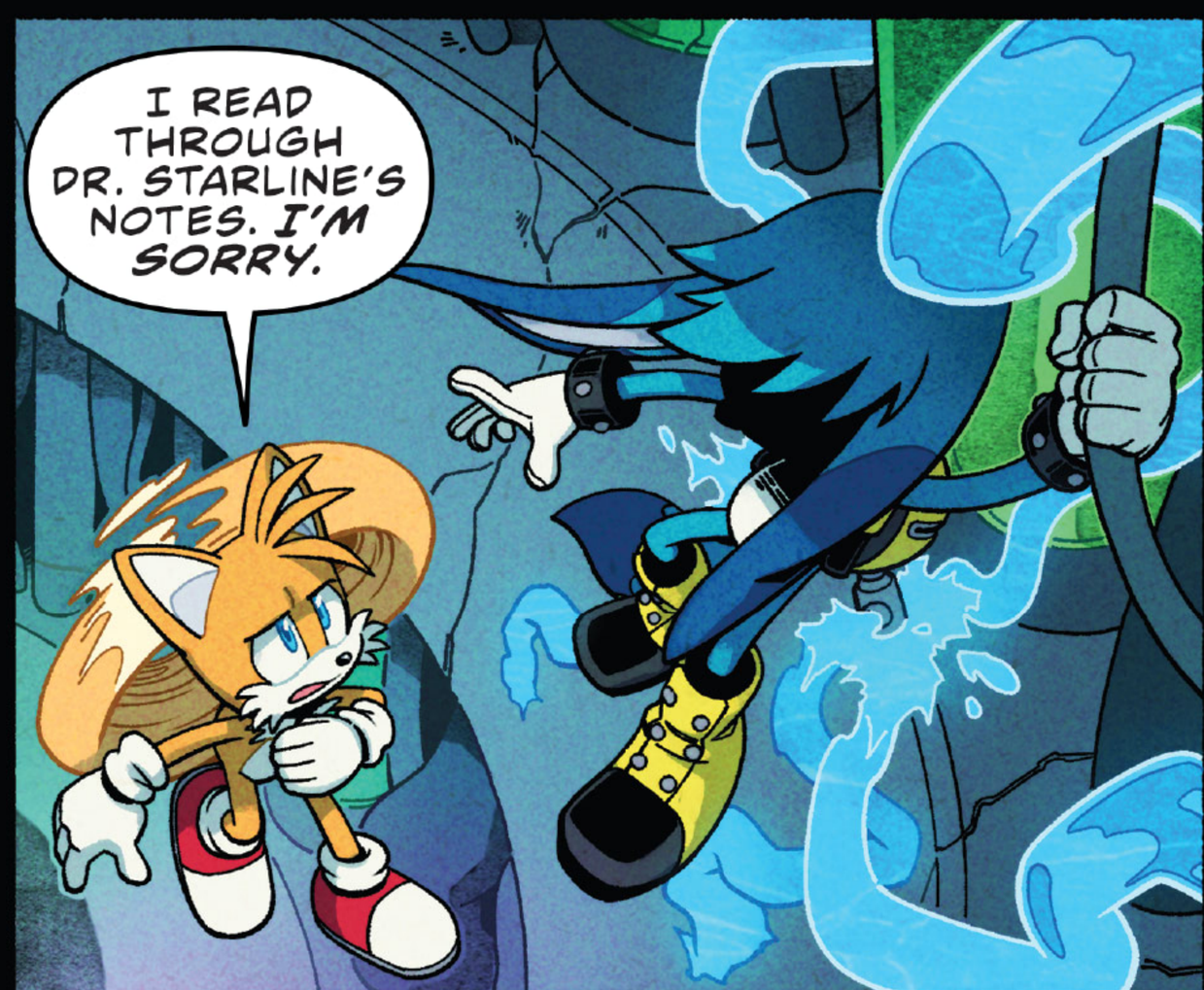
OH BOY...

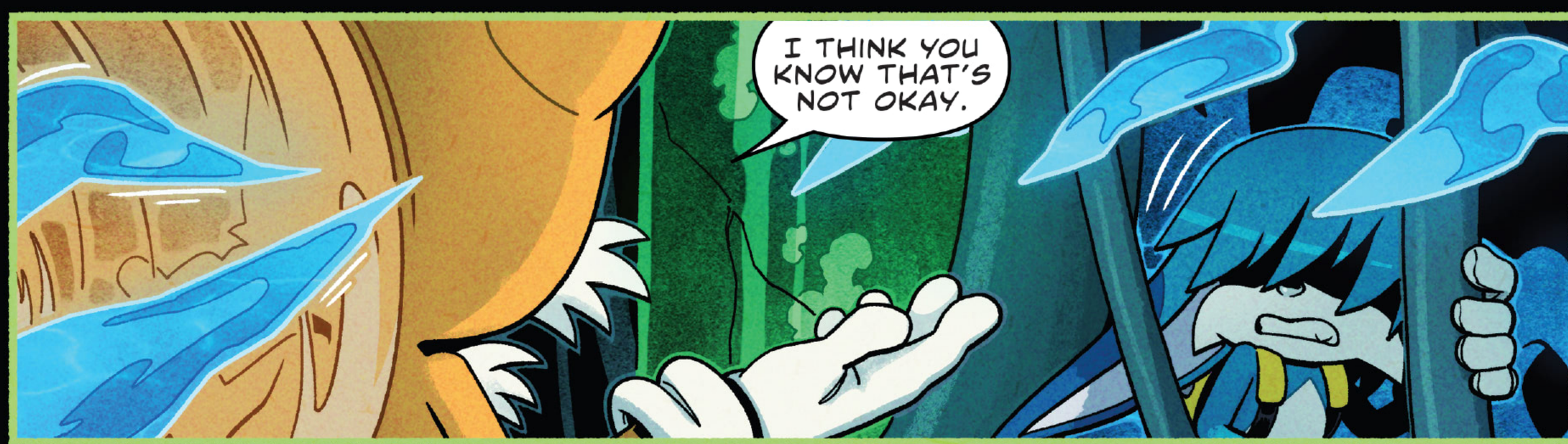
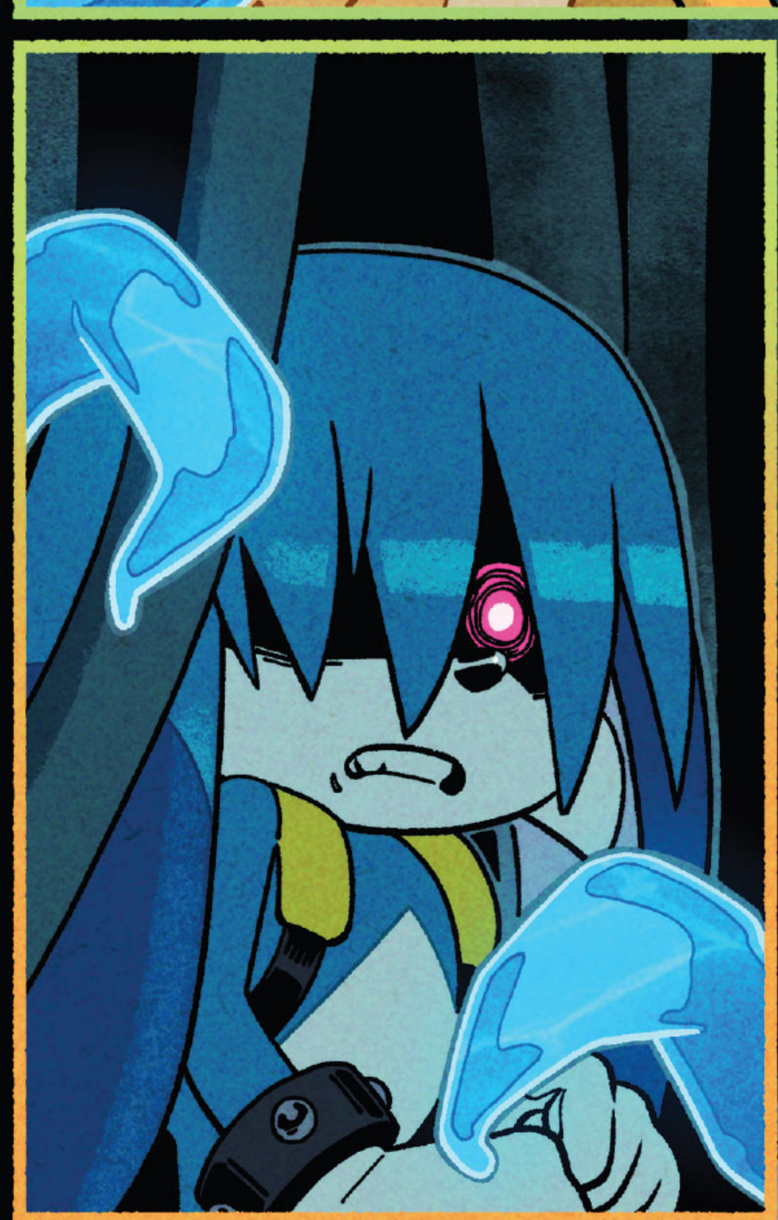
SONIC!


IF I WERE YOU, I'D GET OUT OF THAT WATER.
HEY, I KNOW I'M NOT A GREAT SWIMMER, BUT I'M NOT GONNA DROWN IN A *PUDDLE*.
NOT THAT, IDIOT! SHE--

BZZZAK

YOUR SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION IS TRULY EMBARRASSING, RODENT.
THE DYNAMO CAGE IS GOING TO OVERLOAD ANY MINUTE NOW WITH HOW SHE'S USING IT.
KEEP HER BUSY, AND DON'T LOSE BEFORE I'VE GOT METAL FIXED!
JUST YOU AND ME NOW...
LOOK, SURGE...
...I THINK WE MAYBE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT.
Y'KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE RIGHT.
MY FOOT SHOULD BE ON YOUR THROAT!


I READ THROUGH DR. STARLINE'S NOTES. I'M SORRY.

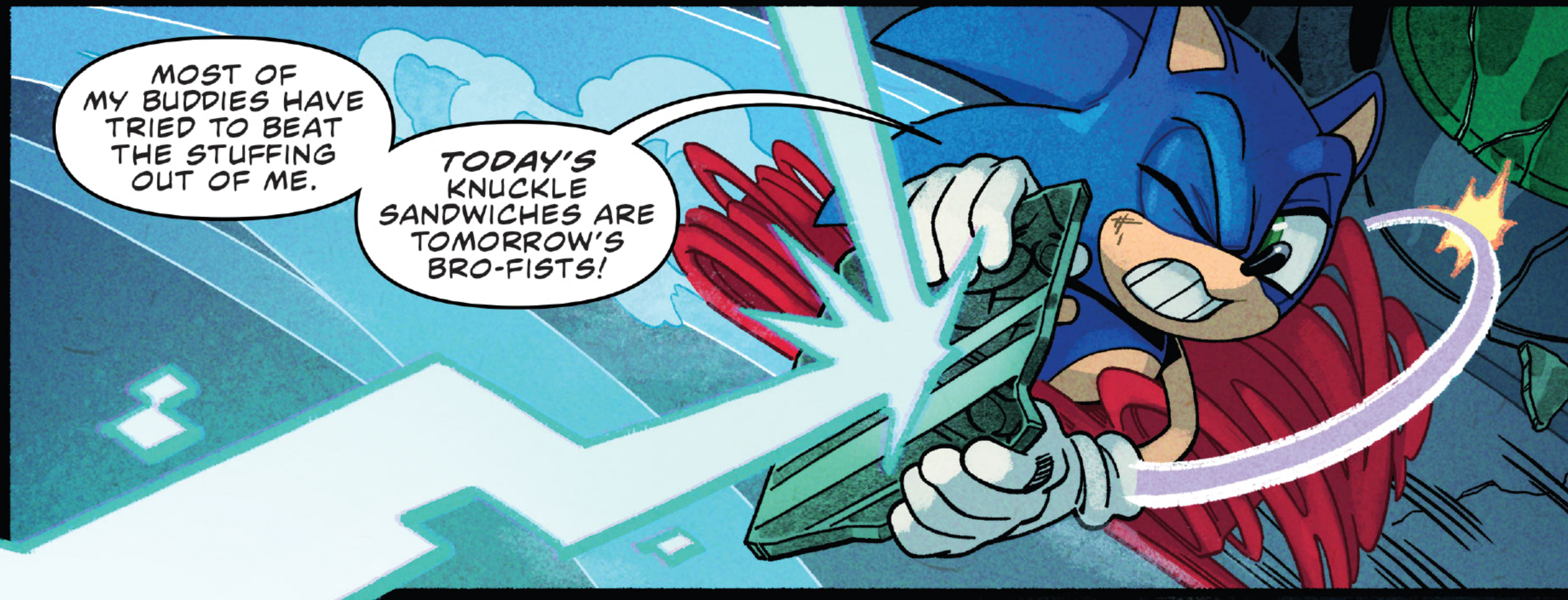
BUT IT DOESN'T JUSTIFY ANY OF THIS! SURGE IS HURTING PEOPLE.
SHE'S HURTING HERSELF!

I THINK YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT OKAY.


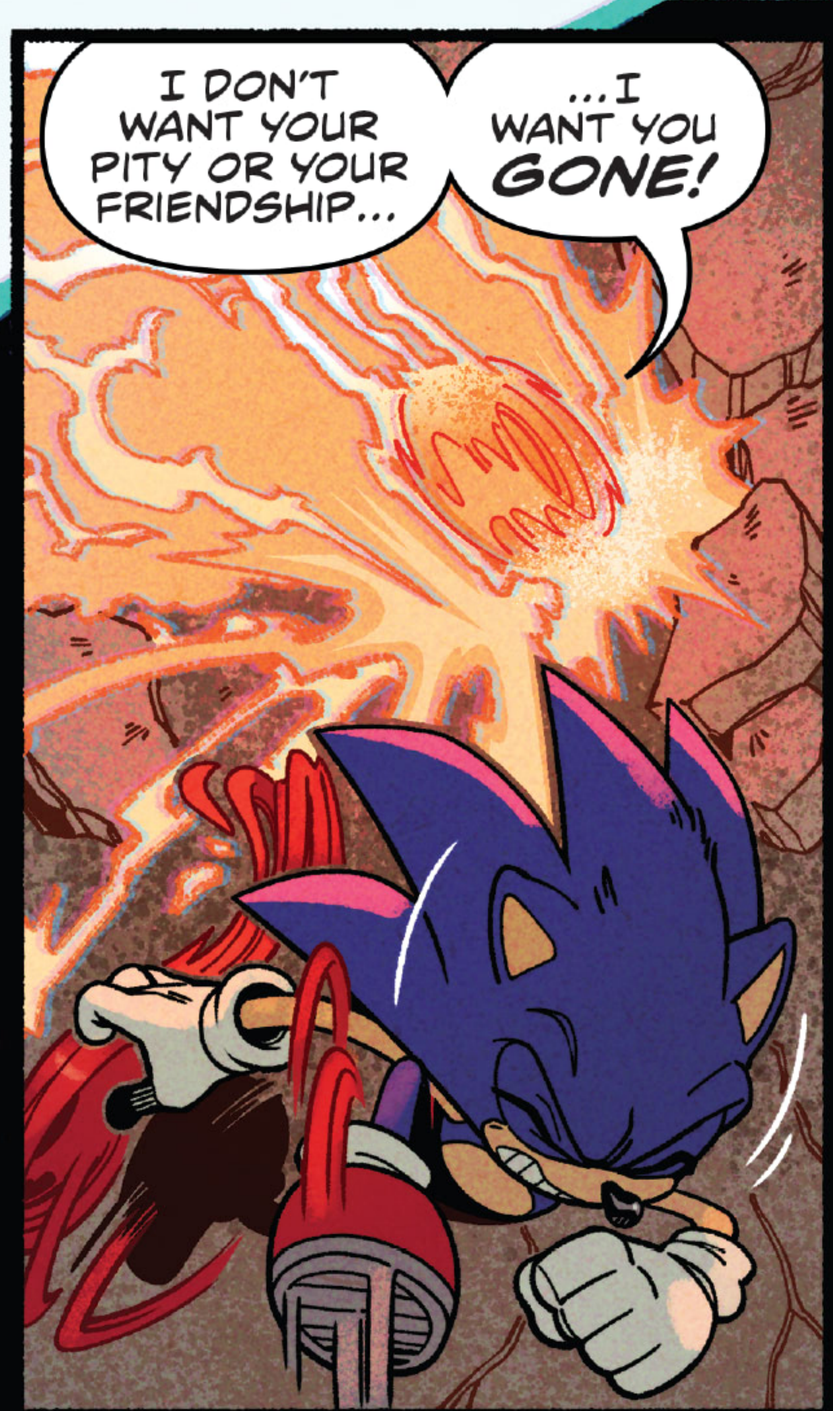
...THANK YOU.

SONIC'LL FIX THIS. COUNT ON IT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS WAS SERIOUSLY HEINOUS. I GET THAT NOW.

YOU THINK THAT MAKES IT BETTER? THAT WE'LL BE FRIENDS?

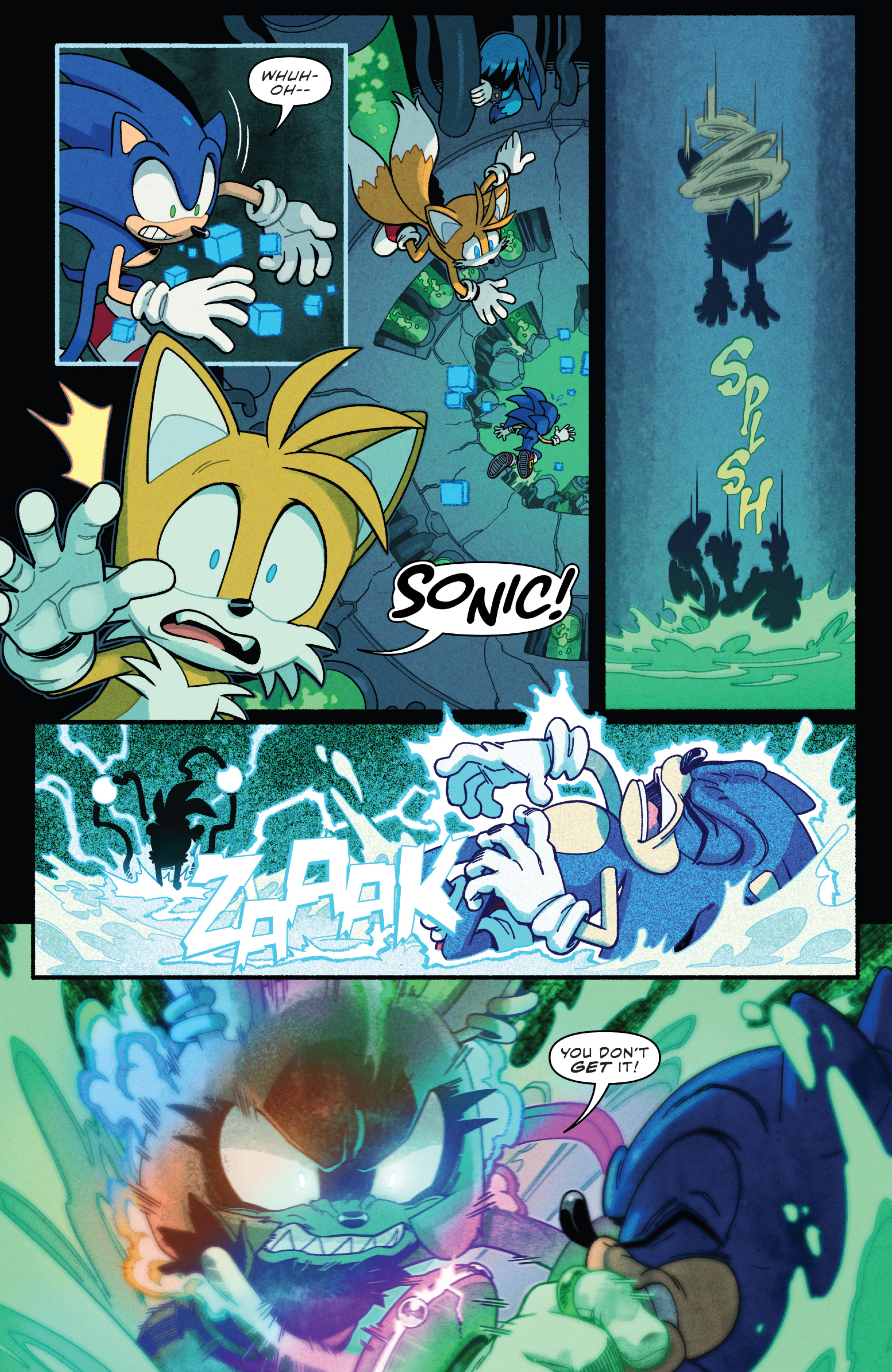

MOST OF MY BUDDIES HAVE TRIED TO BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF ME.
TODAY'S KNUCKLE SANDWICHES ARE TOMORROW'S BRO-FISTS!


I DON'T WANT YOUR PITY OR YOUR FRIENDSHIP...
...I WANT YOU GONE!

BUT WHY? STARLINE'S NOT HERE TO MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING!

FREEDOM IS RIGHT THERE, WAITING FOR YOU. JUST TAKE IT!

...
I CAN'T.


WHUH-OH--
SONIC!
SPLSH
ZAPPAK
YOU DON'T GET IT!

I WAS BUILT TO LIVE IN YOUR SHADOW. IT'S IN MY BLOOD, MY BONES, MY *BRAIN*. THERE IS NO FREEDOM FOR ME...

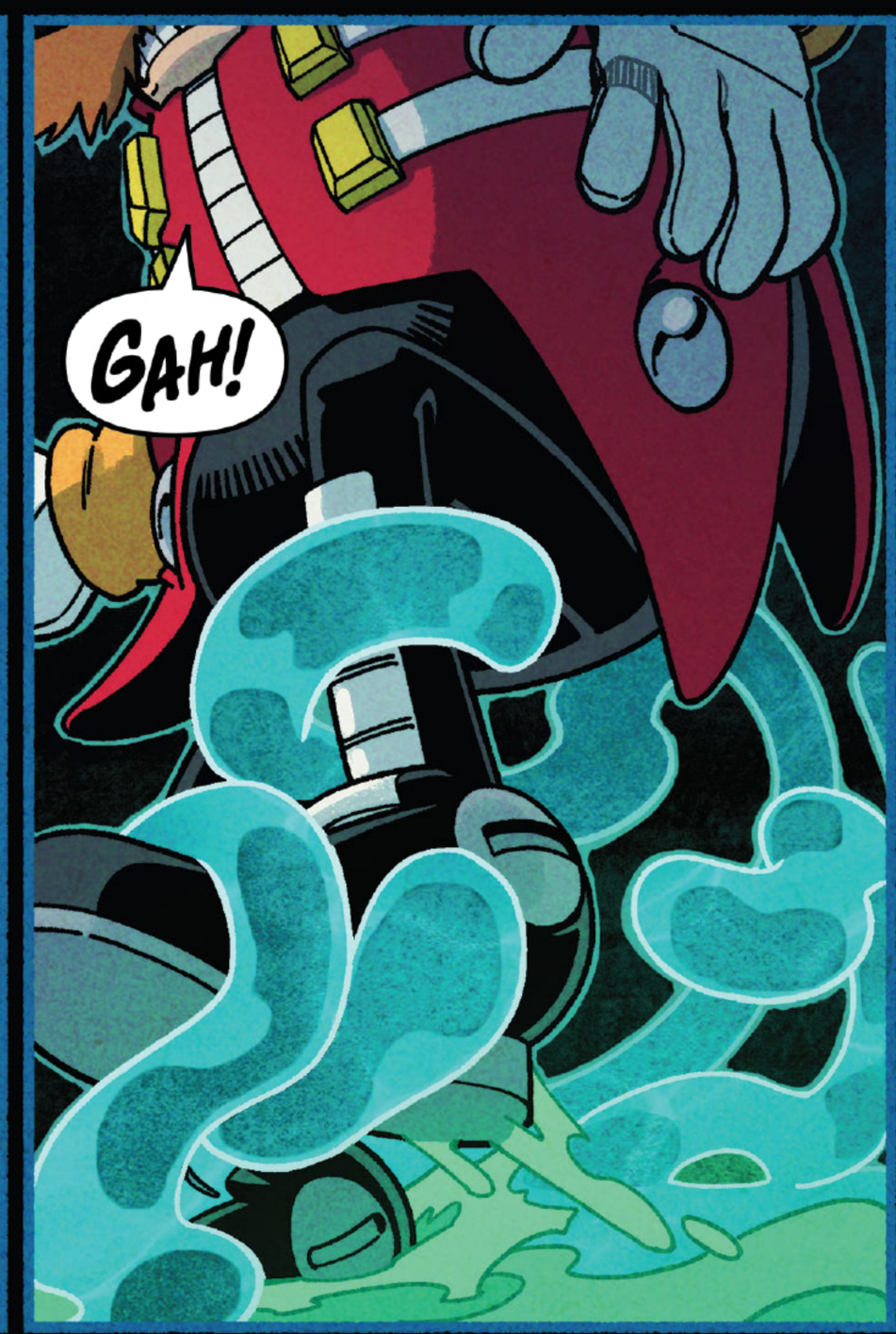
...NOT WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

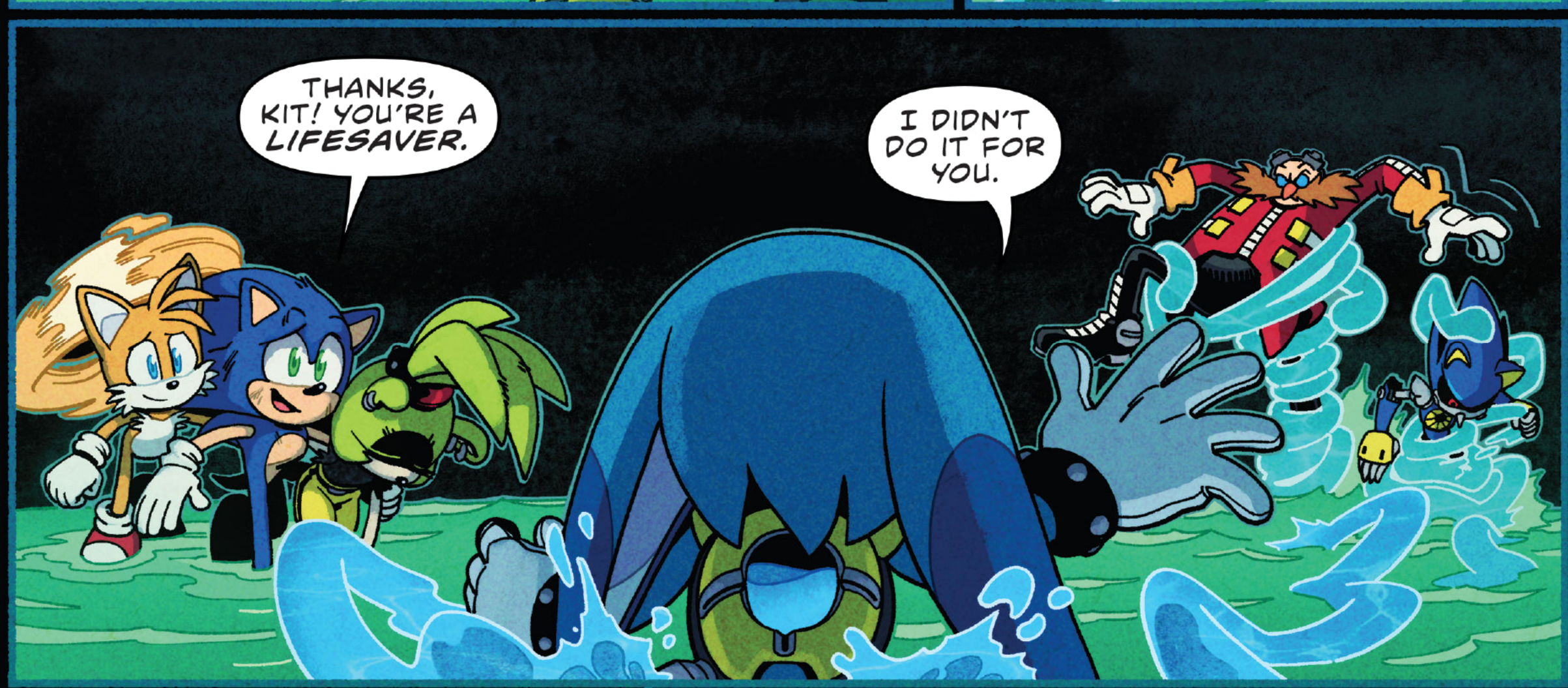
KRASH

GASSSP
OH MY GOSH, OH MY GOSH--
GUHHH... I TAKE IT BACK. THAT PUDDLE'S GNARLY.
FINALLY!
COLLECT THE DYNAMO CAGE AND THE TENREC!

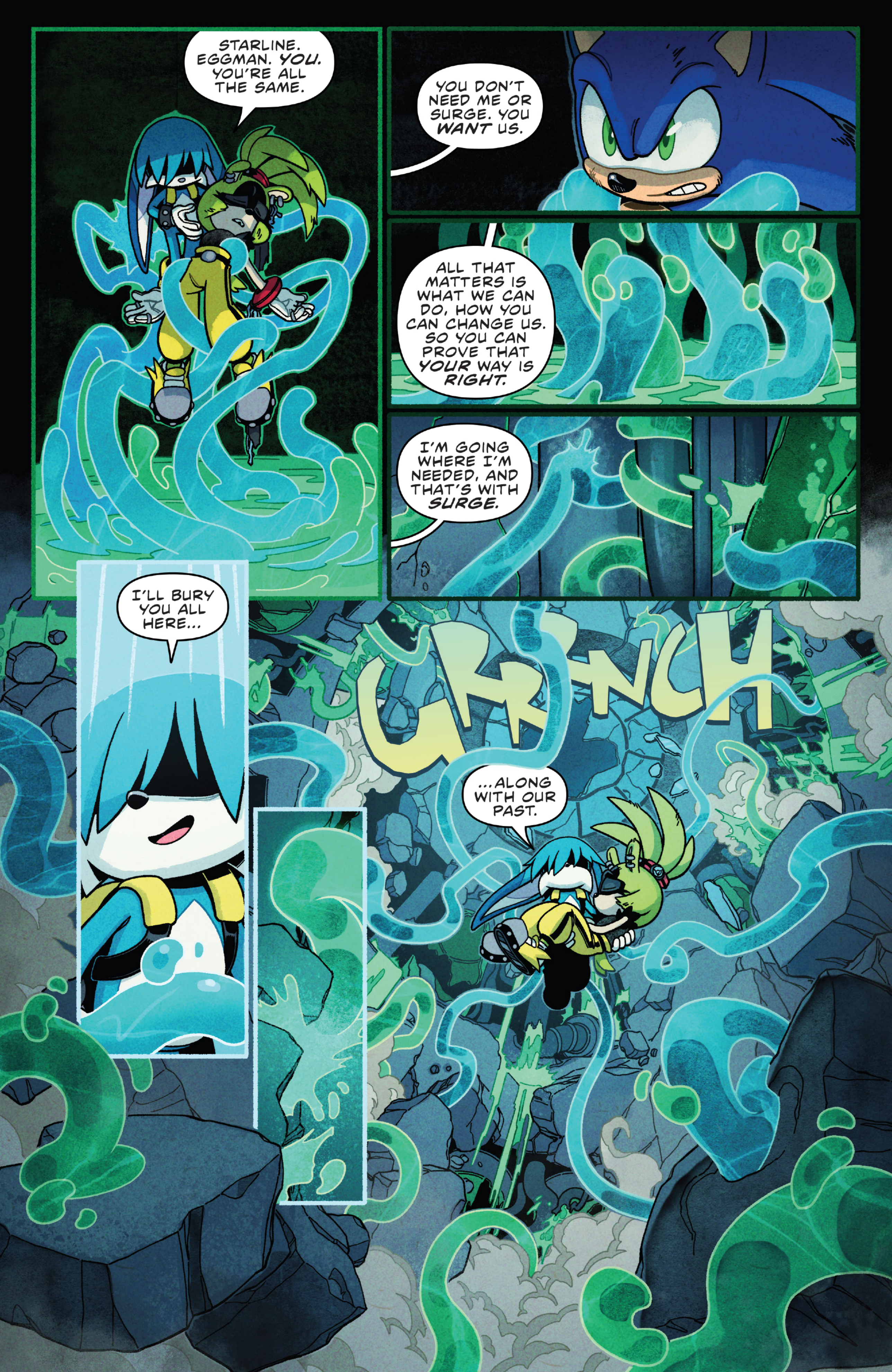
YOU CHEATER...
THIS WASN'T THE DEAL, EGGMAN!
OH PLEASE, LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
SPLA-WHACK

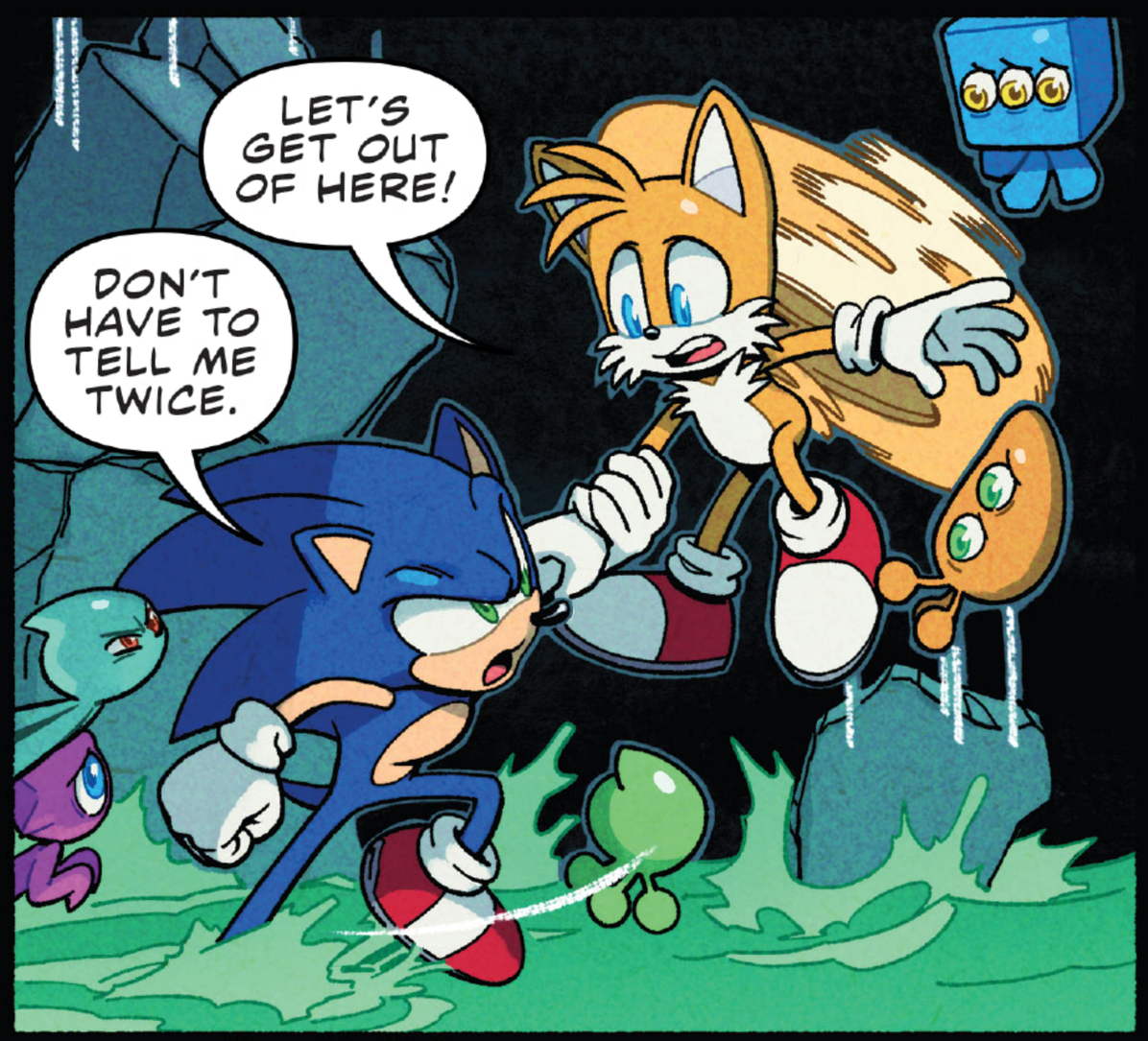
SPLASH
STAY OUT OF THIS, YOU WATERLOGGED WHELP!


GAH!

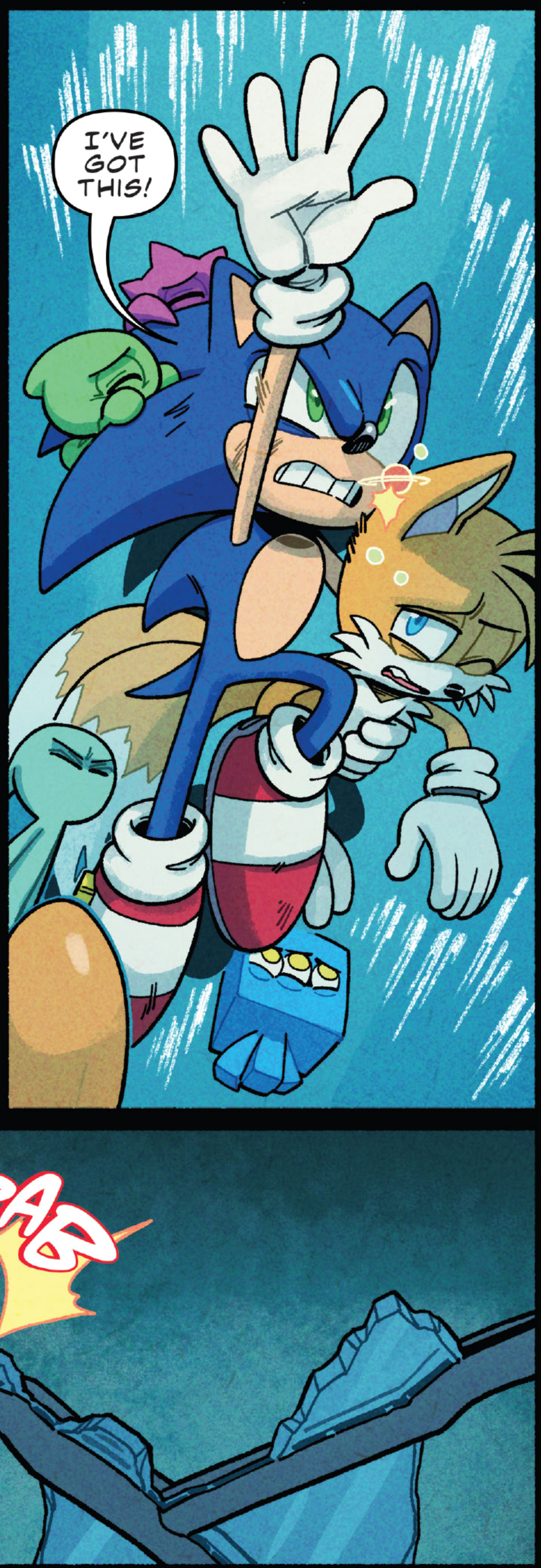
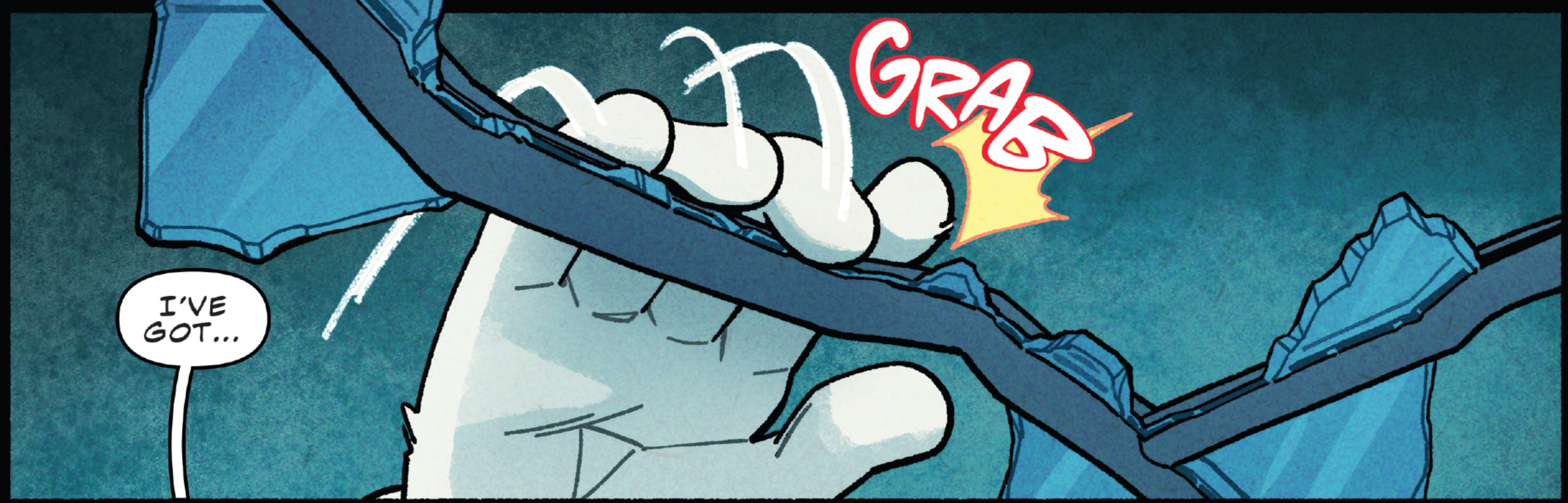

THANKS, KIT! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU.

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.

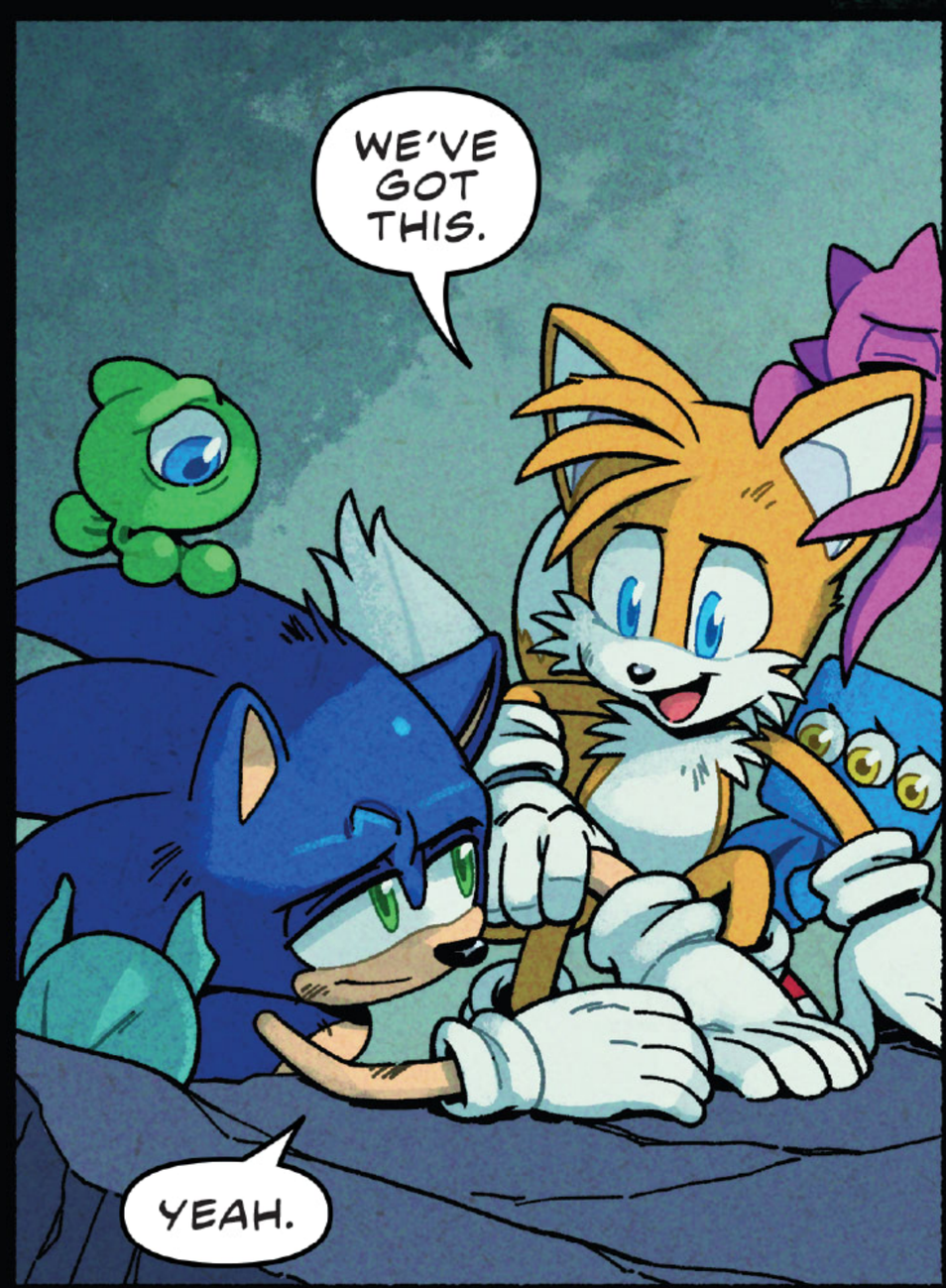

STARLINE. EGGMAN. YOU. YOU'RE ALL THE SAME.
YOU DON'T NEED ME OR SURGE. YOU WANT US.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE CAN DO, HOW YOU CAN CHANGE US. SO YOU CAN PROVE THAT YOUR WAY IS RIGHT.
I'M GOING WHERE I'M NEEDED, AND THAT'S WITH SURGE.
I'LL BURY YOU ALL HERE...
GRRNCH
...ALONG WITH OUR PAST.


LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE.

SUCH MELODRAMATIC HISTRIONICS... FASTER, METAL!

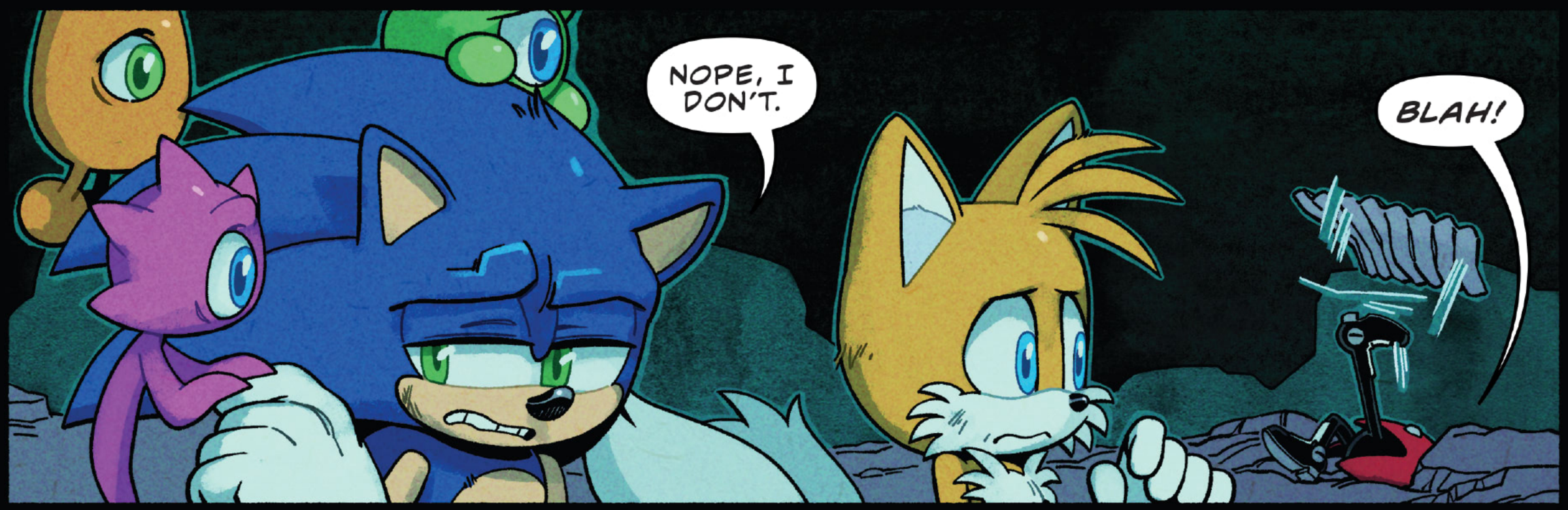
THWAK
AHH!
TAILS!
H-HANG ON!

I'VE GOT THIS!

GRAB
I'VE GOT...

SHFF


WE'VE GOT THIS.
YEAH.

THAT WAS... HM.

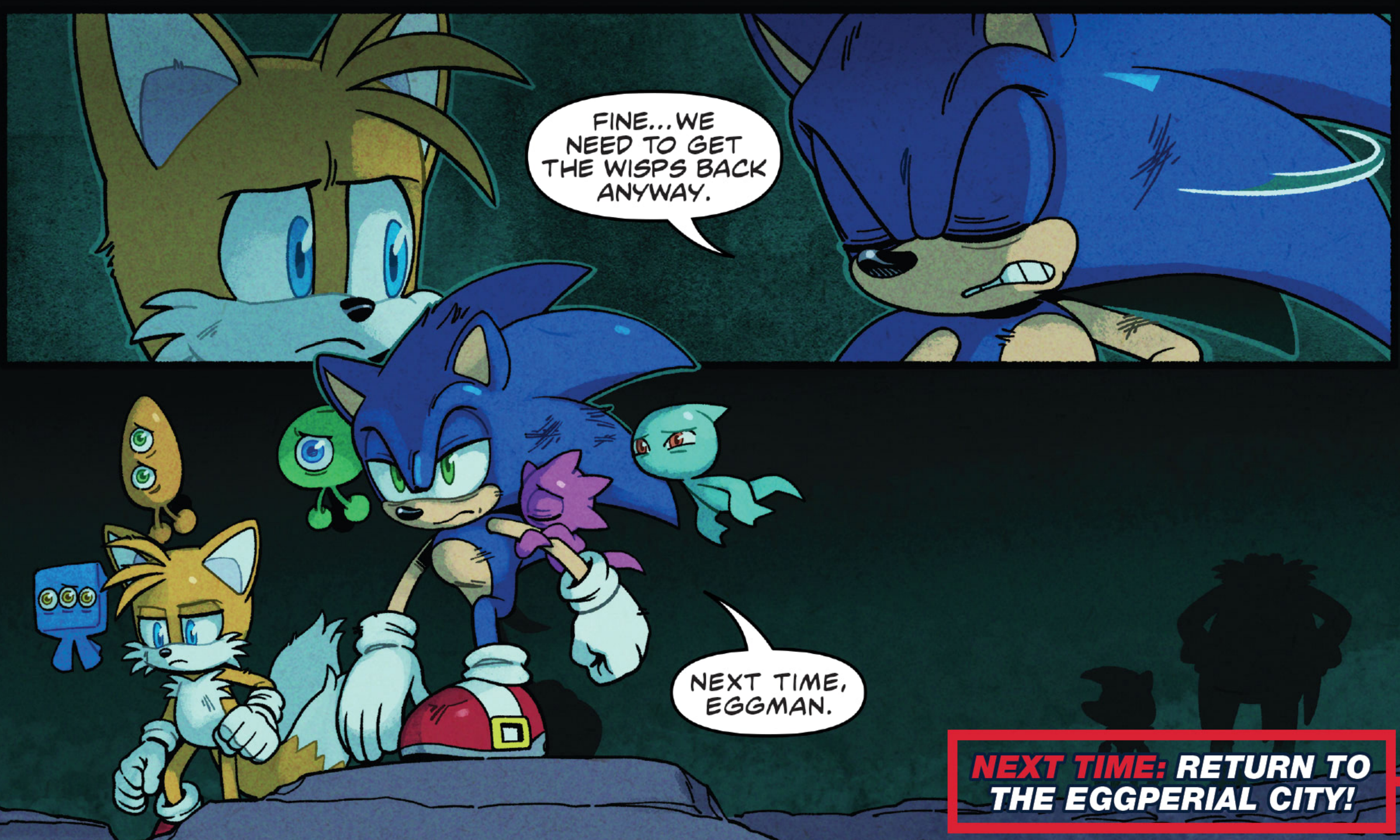
WHERE'S EGGMAN? YOU DON'T THINK...


NOPE, I DON'T.
BLAH!

WELL, THAT WAS A WASTE OF TIME...
METAL, CALL AHEAD TO THE EGGPERIAL CITY. I WANT A TRANSPORT, A SNACK, AND HOT BATH WAITING FOR ME WHEN WE GET HOME.

I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT SULKING TO D-- OH.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE KEEP THAT TRUCE GOING, EH?

...


FINE...WE NEED TO GET THE WISPS BACK ANYWAY.
NEXT TIME, EGGMAN.
NEXT TIME: RETURN TO THE EGGPERIAL CITY!

NEXT MONTH

DEE GEE MIN

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello, Sonic Squad! I hope that's the last of Surge and Kit we see for a while… They're bad news! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for issue #56! Now, let's check out your letters and art!

Dear Sonic Team,

Hi, my name is Meredith, and I have been a fan of Sonic since I was 4 years old. My dad has loved it ever since the first game came out. The first game I played would be *Sonic Mania* that came out when I was 7, and I still play it. From there, I bought a couple other of the games, played the old ones on my dad's Genesis, and then I found the comics. The first one I read was the one where Sonic and his friends had just defeated the Metal Virus and were having a party at Tangle's place. That's when I was introduced to Whisper, and I immediately fell in love with her. I then read the series from the beginning and then read the *Imposter Syndrome* series. I also loved Surge and started making art of all the fantastic characters. I have a Pixilart account, and I make art of them there, too. I was terrified when I looked at the cover art for issue #53, but when I read it, everyone was perfectly okay. I have a couple of questions. 1. Was the Metal Virus based on Covid? 2. Will any of the IDW exclusive characters like Tangle and Whisper be in any of the movies? And finally, I would love to see Tangle or Whisper in a licensed SEGA game (for a console). Will that ever happen? (P.S. In one of the *Trial by Fire* issues, I figured out when Tails was talking about the AGES game it was really SEGA backward.)

Thank you so much for making these comics.

Meredith

Dear Meredith,

I love that your dad shared his love of Sonic with you and now you're a fan. I hope y'all get the chance to play Frontiers *together! And sorry to have given you a scare with the #53 cover, we like to keep readers on their toes! Haha!*

To answer some of your questions… No, the Metal Virus was not based on Covid. That arc was coming to an end when everything shut down in March of 2020, so it was more of an unfortunate coincidence. Either that or Ian Flynn can see into the future…

Tangle and Whisper will not be in the movies as far as we know. But the characters are

ART BY MEREDITH

owned by Sega and they can do whatever they like with them. The more that fans show their love for IDW original characters, the more Sega is inclined to include them on merch, in games, and in other media! No spoilers, but if you keep your ears open while playing Frontiers, *there might be a little easter egg for Tangle fans.*

Thank you for your letter and art! Stay cool!

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, Tangle, Whisper, and [REDACTED] make their return!

ART JAMAL PEPPERS

ART THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER COLORS VALENTINA PINTO

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE